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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000587

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [PINR](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAINI CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A. 04 MANAMA 1503
[1B.](#) 08 MANAMA 168
[1C.](#) MANAMA 22

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(SBU) Summary: This message serves as a primer on Bahrain's primary civil society organizations (CSOs). It should be read in conjunction with
- 2.(SBU) There are over 500 civil societies in Bahrain, all of which were required by law to register initially with the Ministry of Social Deve
- 3.(SBU) Following are the major, non-professional, civil society organizations operating in Bahrain: Human Rights -----
- 4.(C) Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS); Led by former Wa'ad (legacy socialist party) board member Abdulla Alderazi. BHRS has established a r
- 5.(C) Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) (unregistered): Led by Shia secularist Nabeel Rajab. Rajab broke from BHRS to found BCHR in 2000,
- 6.(C) Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS): Led by Shura Council member Faisal Fulad (Note: The 2005 Bandar report alleged Fulad was invc
- 7.(C) Bahrain Transparency Society (BTS): Led by Shia oppositionist Abdunabi Al Ekry. BTS' credibility took a big hit in early 2008 when the p
- 8.(C) Migrant Workers Protection Society (MWPS): Bahraini Mona Al Moayyed is the titular head of MWPS, while British national Beverly Hamadah r
- 9.(C) Bahrain Women's Union (BWU): Led by Mariam Al Ruwaie. BWU was established to bring several women's societies together under one umbrella.
- 10.(SBU) Bahrain Women's Society (BWS): Led by Wajeeha Baharna. BWS frequently works with BWU, particularly on family law. Post has worked with
- 11.(C) Supreme Council for Women (SCW): Led by Lulwa Awadhi (septel), and chaired by the King's wife Sheikha Sabeeka. SCW's members are primari
- 12.(SBU) Bahrain Businesswomen's Society (BBS): Led by Mona Al Moayyed. BBS members are generally prominent businesswomen, and the society focu
- 13.(C) Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights (BYSHR) (unregistered): Led by Mohammed Al Maskati. Al Maskati worked for BCHR and recently marri
- 14.(SBU) Bahrain Youth Forum Society (BYFS): Led by Fatima Ali. A disgruntled former member, who lost an election to the board, levied corrupti
- 15.(SBU) Other less prominent youth organizations, such as Al-Shebabiya and Bahrain Youth Democratic Society, fluctuate in their activity level
- 16.(SBU) Environmental Friends Society (EFS): Led by Khawla Al Muhannadi, who works at the Prime Minister's Court. EFS is the fastest growing r